Patent Attorney Docket No.: 12553/73

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : Ming Gao YAO et al.

SERIAL NO. : 10/634,269

FILED : August 5, 2003

FOR : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVING THE

DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING PROCESS OF A HARD DISK DRIVE MAGNETIC HEAD ARM ASSEMBLY BY

WELDING SPECIFIC COMPONENTS

GROUP ART UNIT: 2627

EXAMINER : Mark S. BLOUIN

M/S: RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Dear Sir:

The following amendments are associated with and accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.